

REMARKS

Claims 20-23 have been amended. Claim 24 has been deleted. Claim 25 has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, e.g., paragraphs 29-34 and Figure 1. To the best of Applicants knowledge, no new matter has been added. Claims 20-23 and 25 are pending. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being vague and indefinite. The current amendments should address each of the Examiner's rejections to claims 20-23. Claim 24 has been deleted. Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

On page 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 20-24 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of co-pending Application No. 11/907,512. Applicants respectfully traverse. Application No. 11/907,512 is a divisional of the present application. In view of the present amendments, a double patenting rejection is improper. (see MPEP 804.01)

On page 5 of the Office Action, claim 24 was provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 and 9 of co-pending Application No. 11/907,512. Claim 24 has been deleted. Furthermore, because claims 1 and 9 of Application No. 11/907,512 are pending, they do not bar allowability of the present claims.

Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusions

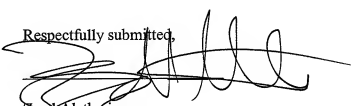
Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 20-23 and 25 and that the application be passed to issue. Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance of pending claims 20-23 and 25 be timely issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in any patent application processing fees pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17, including extension of time fees pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(a)-(d), associated with this communication and to credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

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Respectfully submitted,



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